

69 To THEOPHILUS LINDSEY, 6 April 1790

MS: Dr. Williams's Library, MS. 12.12, f. 140-141

PRINTED: Rutt, I, ii, pp. 62-63

ADDRESS: The Rev<sup>d</sup> Mr Lindsey Essex Street London

[April 6. 1790]

Dear friend

I rejoice that the time of our annual interview, especially in Titchfield Street, is now so near as tuesday next, Deo volente.<sup>1</sup> I wish I may find you as well as I hope you will find me //finely// recreated, and enlivened by controversy. But, seriously, your illness has given me some concern. You ought now to indulge yourself in more frequent excursions, and vacations from public service. I shall certainly do so, if I can afford it, at your age. There is a time for all things, and rest naturally follows labour. As I now enjoy the latter, I expect in time to have as much enjoyment of the former. With this you will receive the 4<sup>th</sup> Part of my Letters.<sup>2</sup> But I find I write faster than you have leisure to read or hear. Mr Burn<sup>3</sup> has announced his speedy Reply. The clergy are exasperated to the greatest degree, but I have just heard that, after a solemn consultation, they have dropped their scheme of the Spiritual Court. You will see by what ~~you will now~~ //I now send// that I am not intimidated and do not lose my temper as they do theirs.

One N<sup>o</sup> more will probably finish what I think of saying at present, and as my subject will be chiefly the present state of things in the Church of England, I hope to be assisted by you, and my other friends in London. For this purpose I shall put down a few queries for yourself and others to answer.

Mr Belsham<sup>4</sup> has written to me on the subject of Mr W.<sup>5</sup> I really do not know what to say, as to advise. Perhaps his particular temper may not much affect his colleagues, and any airs he may give himself may be disposed, and passed by without notice. Many, I believe, will blame the manager for refusing him. But we shall talk this over when I see you.<sup>6</sup> In the mean time I am, with M<sup>rs</sup> P's best respects to you both,

yours & M<sup>rs</sup> Lindsey's,  
most affectionately  
J Priestley

Birm Ap<sup>r</sup> 6. 1790

We send the Letters to Mr Johnson.<sup>7</sup> Take what you want.

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<sup>1</sup> 'God willing'.

<sup>2</sup> Joseph Priestley, *Familiar Letters, addressed to the Inhabitants of Birmingham. Part IV* (Birmingham, 1790).

<sup>3</sup> Edward Burn (1762-1837), see 11 Mar 1790.

<sup>4</sup> Thomas Belsham (1750-1829), see 3 Apr 1789.

<sup>5</sup> Gilbert Wakefield (1756-1801), see 3 Apr 1789.

<sup>6</sup> This paragraph is omitted from Rutt's edition.

<sup>7</sup> Joseph Johnson (1738-1809), see 18 Jan 1770.